

## ATTACHE LEAVES IN FRIENDLY MOOD

COL. HOUSE TO  
VISIT EUROPE  
AS AN ENVOY

Intimate Friend of President  
Announces Special Trip  
He Is to Make.

## PEACE MOVE IS HINTED

Both Wilson and Colonel  
Deny That Is Motive—To  
Enlighten Ambassadors

Washington, Dec. 22.—Announcement by Colonel E. M. House of New York, President Wilson's close personal friend and adviser, that he soon would go to Europe at the request of the president and the secretary of state, caused great interest in official and diplomatic circles here today. Secretary Lansing confirmed the announcement but declined to add anything to it.

Colonel House's statement declared that the sole object of his mission would be to take to the American ambassadors at the capitals of the warring nations certain information regarding the Washington government's attitude on international questions. It was denied that he would go on a peace mission.

Silent on Peace Suggestion.

Officials today declined to discuss Colonel House's mission owing to its delicate nature nor would they make any response to questions as to whether he would make informal inquiries regarding prospects of peace.

The trip will be the second one made by Colonel House since last spring, when he visited Germany, France and England and talked with high government officials.

At the time of the first trip it was reported that Colonel House acted as the personal emissary of President Wilson and that he went on a peace mission. This Colonel House denied, although later he reported to the president on his observations of the state of public opinion abroad. While what he told the president never became known, it was learned that his picture of the situation did not change the president's belief that the time was not opportune for initiating a peace movement.

To Exchange Views.

Authoritative explanation of the purposes of Col. E. M. House's trip to Europe at the request of President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, obtained here today, discloses that Colonel House will discuss the views of the United States on general international questions and will endeavor to determine the state of official and public opinion in the various countries he will visit. During his tour Colonel House may secure expressions or understandings in regard to peace negotiations. Should he do so, the United States will be promptly advised.

However, he will make no effort to secure views on this point. The peace question, it is stated, is merely incidental to his trip.

The state department wants it understood that the visit of Colonel House should not be construed into meaning that there is any dissatisfaction of any of the diplomatic representatives of the United States. The contrary is true.

President Backs Colonel.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 22.—President Wilson said today that the European trip of his friend, Colonel E. M. House, was in no way connected with the peace movement, but was entirely for the purpose outlined by Colonel House in his statement issued last night in New York. The colonel said his mission was to communicate to American ambassadors in person for the president certain information that the ambassadors might more intimately communicate the attitude of the United States toward certain phases of the international situation. Further than to say that Colonel House had stated the object of his mission exactly the president refused to comment.

Today the president and Mrs. Wilson motored over to White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., for luncheon. The ride is about 45 miles.

VILLA WILL COME TO  
THE UNITED STATES

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 22.—Francisco Villa has agreed to come to the United States but will not pass through Juarez, according to General Manuel Banda. This information was contained in a statement by Banda at the conclusion of a conference of former Villa officers today in Juarez.

ANCONA SURVIVOR  
ARRIVES ON BOAT

Little 15-Year-Old Boy Aboard Steam-  
er Patria—Ship Carefully  
Avoids Subs.

New York, Dec. 22.—Unusual precautions to meet a possible submarine attack were taken by the French steamer Patria, which arrived today from Naples, Palermo and Lisbon with 41 first, 91 second cabin and 550 steerage passengers. On leaving Palermo the steamers boats were hung over the side; steam was kept on the winches and at night all lights were out.

The Patria hugged the African coast all the way to Gibraltar, then repeated the precautionary measures on leaving Lisbon.

Of chief interest among the ship's crew was John De Marco, aged 15 years, a mess boy and a survivor of the Ancona disaster. Among the passengers was Albert J. Engel, representing American aeroplane interests. He returned after establishing aviation schools in Spain for army and naval officers. While there King Alfonso made a flight with him.

Jap Steamship Sunk.

Paris, Dec. 22 (2:45 p. m.)—The sinking of the Japanese steamship Sada Maru in the eastern Mediterranean yesterday by a German or Austrian submarine is reported in a dispatch from Malta to the Havas agency. Wireless calls for help reached Alexandria, Egypt, and vessels were sent out. Details of the sinking are not known.

Little Girl is  
Driven Mad  
by Troubles

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 22.—Her mother dead, her father hanged for the crime, in her mind the memory that her testimony had helped send her father to the gallows, the five little brothers and sisters to whom she had been a "little mother" scattered in different homes and herself without a home; these are the reasons why Erie Sprouse, 13 years old, was yesterday found to be of unsound mind and today will be committed to the state hospital for the insane.

Last summer the body of Erie's mother was found on an abandoned farm in St. Louis with the skull crushed from hammer blows. On July 16 William H. Sprouse was hanged at Clayton, Mo., having been convicted of the murder of his wife. Probably the most damaging testimony against him were the words of Erie and her brother Roy, 14 years old.

"Papa took mama away from our home in East St. Louis and brought back another woman, who he said would be our new mama," the child said.

Sprouse later attempted to get a marriage license to marry this woman, which, with other circumstantial evidence, fastened the crime on him. After the execution of Sprouse homes were found for all of the children excepting Erie, though she seemed to be the brightest.

ONCE BRAVE, WISE  
AND FAMOUS; NOW  
CHARITY SUBJECT

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Colonel Arthur Charles Stevens, a graduate of Oxford and Eton, and for 25 years an officer in the British army, is awaiting death in a poorhouse here, it became known today.

Colonel Stevens was an intimate of Sir John French, the noted British general. In recent years, before he was seized with paralysis, Colonel Stevens worked on newspapers in New York, Chicago, St. Louis and Milwaukee. A long time he was editor of a nationally known magazine.

The veteran soldier has three sons. One is a cadet at Sandhurst, England's West Point; a second is in the royal school of army engineers at Woolwich, and the third is fighting with the English army in France.

Colonel Stevens is 69 years old.

PITTSBURGH BANK IS  
REPORTED BANKRUPT

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 22.—The Pittsburgh Bank for Savings, one of the best known institutions in the city, failed to open for business today. The bank was closed by order of the Pennsylvania banking department. G. H. Getty, bank examiner, has been appointed temporary receiver.

## NEW NOTE SENT TO AUSTRIA

Washington, Dec. 22.—The reply of the United States to Austria's note on the destruction of the Italian liner Ancona declares that the official admission of the Austrian admiralty that the liner was torpedoed after she had stopped and while passengers still were aboard, alone is sufficient for the American demand for disavowal, reparation and punishment of the submarine commander.

Secretary Lansing's second note, already probably in the hands of the Austrian foreign minister, and made public here today, renews the demands of the United States and says the details to which Austria referred her reply to the first American communication are in no way essential to the discussion. It emphasizes that continuance of good relations between the two countries depends upon the action of the Austrian government. The full text of the note which is addressed to American Ambassador Penfield, follows:

The government of the United States has received the note of your excellency relative to the sinking of the Ancona, which was delivered at Vienna on Dec. 15, 1915, and transmitted to Washington, and has given the note immediate and careful consideration.

On Nov. 15, 1915, Baron Zwiadnek, the charge d'affaires of the imperial and royal government at Washington, transmitted to the department of state a report of the Austro-Hungarian admiralty with regard to the sinking of the steamship Ancona, in which it was admitted that the vessel was torpedoed after her engines had been stopped and when passengers were still on board. This admission alone is, in the view of the government of the United States, sufficient to fix upon the commander of the submarine which fired the torpedo the responsibility for having wilfully violated the recognized

WOMEN LAWYERS  
TO DEFEND GIRLS

Thirty Chicago Attorneys Band Them-  
selves Together to Save First  
Offenders.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Thirty women lawyers of Chicago have formed the Public Defenders' league for girls, it was announced today, for the purpose of preventing any girl from being sent to jail or prison for a first offense subsequently to become the prey of professional bondsmen.

Members of the league will ask Chief Justice Olson of the municipal court to create a special girls' court and appoint a woman as judge. The women attorneys have agreed to give one day a month to the proposed special court, defending young women offenders free.

"It is unjust and inhuman to send girls to police station or jails for first offenses," said Miss Nellie Carlin, president of the league.

"Their cases should not be heard in a room crowded with cynical men. Their fault should not be exposed to drive away their self respect."

Miss Carlin said that several organizations had offered to cooperate in assisting in obtaining position for the girl offenders.

law of nations and entirely disregard those humane principles which every belligerent should observe in the conduct of war at sea. In view of these admitted circumstances the government of the United States feels justified in holding that the details of the sinking of the Ancona, the weight and character of the additional testimony corroborating the admiralty's report, and the number of Americans killed or injured are in no way essential matters of discussion. The culpability of the commander is in any case established, and the undisputed fact is that citizens of the United States were killed, injured, or put in jeopardy by his lawless act.

The rules of international law and the principles of humanity which were thus wilfully violated by the commander of the submarine have been so long and so universally recognized and are so manifest from the standpoint of right and justice that the government of the United States does not feel called upon to debate them and does not understand that the imperial and royal government questions or disputes them.

The government of the United States therefore finds no other course open to it but to hold the imperial and royal government responsible for the act of its naval commander and to renew the definite but respectful demands made in its communication of the 6th of December, 1915. It sincerely hopes that the foregoing statement of its position will enable the imperial and royal government to perceive the justice of those demands and to comply with them in the same spirit of frankness and with the same concern for the good relations now existing between the United States and Austria-Hungary which prompted the government of the United States to make

BRITISH WILL  
ADD MILLION  
MEN TO ARMY

After All Night Fight in the  
House of Commons In-  
crease Is Granted.

## NOW REACH 4,000,000

Important Changes to Be  
Made in Commands of  
Different Fields.

London, Dec. 22. (11:59 a. m.)—After an all-night debate the house of commons early today granted an increase of 1,000,000 men in the British army, bringing up its strength on paper to 4,900,000. With the increase came changes in higher command, Lieutenant General Robertson, chief of the general staff, having been recalled from France to become chief of the imperial staff in London in place of Lieutenant General Murray, who is about to receive an important command. These changes are accepted here as indicating closer cooperation among the allies in the conduct of military operations on the western front.

Take Advantage of Effect.

The Teutonic powers are represented as taking full advantage of the moral effect produced by the withdrawal of British forces from the Gallipoli peninsula and to be attempting once more to swing Greece and Rumania to their side in the Balkan operations. If the news of the bombardment of Varna is true, Russia is losing no time in an attempt to forestall these efforts. From several sources, all unofficial, London has heard of the bombardment of the Bulgarian port. Various dispatches state that the Russian war ships are accompanied by a fleet of transports which, according to the morning papers, already has landed a sufficient force to hold the town.

Greek View Unchanged.

While the Greek elections have given a large majority to former Premier Gounaris, a powerful member of the present cabinet who is not over friendly to the entente powers, it is not believed here the change will have much of an effect on the attitude of Greece, which is now much more agitated by the possibility that Bulgarians will cross the frontier than by the formation of a new government.

Hampered By Bad Weather.

Along the western line, according to British official reports, the Germans suffered heavy losses while exposing their forces in an effort to occupy craters which their mines had opened along the front near Armentieres. French operations at most places are hampered greatly by bad weather, but a considerable portion of the German works on Hartmann-Wellerkopf has been carried.

Russians Take Kum.

The Russians are reported to have occupied Kum, which indicates they are making an important advance into the interior of Persia.

Although the question of conscription figured largely in the army debate last night in the house of commons, it was only an incidental part of the discussion. The country awaits with keen interest the debate which is certain to follow presentation to the house of the Earl of Derby's figures on the attestation plan.

Censors Lax  
in Regard to  
Blind Folks

New York, Dec. 22.—Miss Helen Keller and other blind persons in the United States are obtaining uncensored news from the capitals of belligerent nations in Europe in newspapers published for the blind in London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna, according to Miss Keller. These newspapers are not censored, she says, because they are printed in shorthand Braille, a point type used for the blind, which the censors are unable to read.

"These uncensored accounts of conditions in the warring countries tell me the true sentiment among the working people and the intolerable conditions that surround them," said Miss Keller. "Their hearts are almost at the breaking point."

Miss Keller made this explanation to show how she obtained information concerning the war disclosed in a speech she made recently on preparedness.

HOPE TO DETECT  
FEEBLE MINDED

New York Police Department Estab-  
lishes Plan Whereby Defectives  
Can Be Treated.

New York, Dec. 22.—Police Commissioner Woods today announced he has established at police headquarters a laboratory for the discovery of mental defectives among prisoners. This move is the result of experiments which have been conducted in the police department for two months and of a visit by Dr. Louis F. Bish and Police Inspector Faurot to the psychopathic laboratories of the Chicago police. Dr. Bish, who is associate professor in psychology at Columbia university, will have charge of the laboratory, which will contain scientific equipment and appliances for the detection of the feeble-minded and insane among the prisoners.

The police commissioner announced that the department of correction will segregate and give special care to prisoners who are feeble-minded and will endeavor to treat their cases so as to decrease the menace to the public which has resulted from former methods.

CHRISTMAS SHIP  
HAS BREAK DOWN

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—The transport Prairie, which was to have sailed from here yesterday for Haiti, will not get away until Thursday or later because of a broken top mast and therefore will not reach Haiti until after Christmas. Presents for the naval force from friends and relatives in this country, as well as 300 buckets of cranberries and 5,000 pounds of candy also are aboard the Prairie.

QUIT DARDANELLES  
IN GREAT DISORDER

Berlin, Dec. 22. (by wireless to Sayville.)—Advices received here from Constantinople reiterate the assertion that the British forces which quit the Dardanelles retired in great disorder. "According to Constantinople reports," says the Overseas News Agency, "the British left their sick and wounded behind. Their retreat, which they pretend was carried out systematically, in reality was a head-over-heels flight."

## THE WAR TODAY

The second American note to Austria-Hungary on the Ancona case has been delivered, a dispatch from Vienna states.

The Turkish official report declares the allied fleet unsuccessfully attempted by a violent bombardment to destroy the stores which the British left behind in evacuation of the Suvla and Anzac zones on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Berlin has Constantinople advices reiterating that the withdrawal from the Gallipoli was disorderly instead of systematic and virtually without losses, as the British official statement declares, it being asserted in the Berlin reports that the British even left their sick and wounded behind.

The British house of commons, after an all-night debate, approved the government's demand for 1,000,000 additional men for the army. Opponents of conscription figured prominently in the discussion.

From German sources come statements that nearly all the British troops have been withdrawn from the Aegean Islands of Imbros, Lemnos and Tenedos, their destination being Saloniki. British bases for operations in the Dardanelles have been maintained on the Aegean Islands. Reports of the troop withdrawal are in line with the impression that the abandonment of important sections of the Gallipoli peninsula front marked the virtual end of the Dardanelles campaign, even though a footing on the peninsula has been retained by the allies.

## THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for  
Rock Island, Davenport, Moline  
and Vicinity.

Warmer tonight with lowest temperature slightly below freezing; colder Thursday.

Temperature at 7 a. m., 19. Highest yesterday, 34; lowest last night, 18. Wind velocity at 7 a. m., one mile per hour.

Precipitation last 24 hours, none. Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 88; at 7 a. m., 100; at 1 p. m., 79.

River stage at 7 a. m., 1.4 feet, a fall of 3 of a foot in the last 24 hours. J. M. SHERIFF, Local Forecaster.

VON PAPEN ON  
SHIP SAILING  
FOR GERMANY

Recalled Military Attache  
Takes Passage on Noor-  
dam, Leaving Today.

## LAUDS UNITED STATES

Makes Public Statement of  
Kindly Feeling Toward  
This Country.

New York, Dec. 22.—Captain Franz von Papen, Germany's recalled military attache, left New York for Rotterdam today on the steamship Noordam, bearing a safe conduct to Germany from the entente allies. He issued this statement:

"In leaving this country, where I have received so many proofs of kindness and hospitality from Americans and others, I deem it my duty to thank all those who did not permit their friendly personal feelings to be poisoned by the hatred created by the war among the nations.

"My thoughts turn back today expressly to those unforgettable days when I had the honor and good fortune to spend some time with the expeditionary force at Vera Cruz, where I learned to admire the splendid soldierly quality and devotion to duty of the United States army.

"Personally speaking, no greater satisfaction could be given to me than the fulfillment of my ardent desire to be home where soldiers are far more urgently needed than here.

"I leave my post without any feeling of bitterness because I know too well that when history is once written it will establish our clean records despite all the misrepresentation and calumnies spread broadcast at present.

Quotes Newspaper.

"The New York World, which certainly is not open to the suspicion of harboring friendly feeling for my country, stated very fairly, when discussing my recall, 'now that the matter is settled the fact should be emphasized that the state department made no charges against Captain von Papen and Captain Boy-Ed which reflected in the slightest degree on their honor as officers. Certain newspapers have made charges which could not be supported by evidence, but the United States government never intimated that it believed these charges to be true.'"

"To this I have nothing to add. After all, this war will not be won by the Providence Journal and the Evening Telegram with their hyphenated supporters. It will be decided by the success of the invincible German arms. Sees Peace Between U. S. and Germany."

"I go home with the unshakable conviction that no efforts, however insistent they may be, will accomplish the fervent desire of our enemy to embroil our country with this great nation. Our neutral relations will and must, on the contrary, inevitably and gradually improve as it becomes clearer to every intelligent and clear minded American that Germany is engaged in a fully justifiable and heroic fight for existence and the very life of the nation."

The captain was accompanied to the pier at Hoboken by a few friends, with whom he chatted while his baggage was being examined. The examination of all baggage going aboard ship was put in force for the first time today by the Holland-American line. Officials of the line declined to give any specific reasons for it.

KAISER WILLIAM  
POSTPONES TRIP

Berlin, Dec. 22. (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—Emperor William has postponed the trip he had planned making to the western front, the Overseas News Agency announces, a slight indisposition making it necessary for him to remain indoors for a few days.

An official message received here today from Berlin describes Emperor William's illness as "Zellgewebentzündung" (more frequently given as "bindgewebentzündung").

POWDER PLANT BLOWN  
UP; TOWN DESTROYED

London, Dec. 22. (4:25 p. m.)—According to advices to the Amsterdam Telegraph, forwarded by Reuters correspondent, a powder factory and several ammunition depots at Muenster, Westphalia, have been blown up. Great damage was done to the town.